

# Better Homes through Improved Quality

## Builder Guide



### DESCRIPTION

When systematically integrated into an ENERGY STAR labeled home, efficiency improvements also lead to a significant improvement in overall quality. Better quality homes require fewer callbacks to fix problems and create more satisfied customers. Satisfied customers are typically the foundation of a successful business.



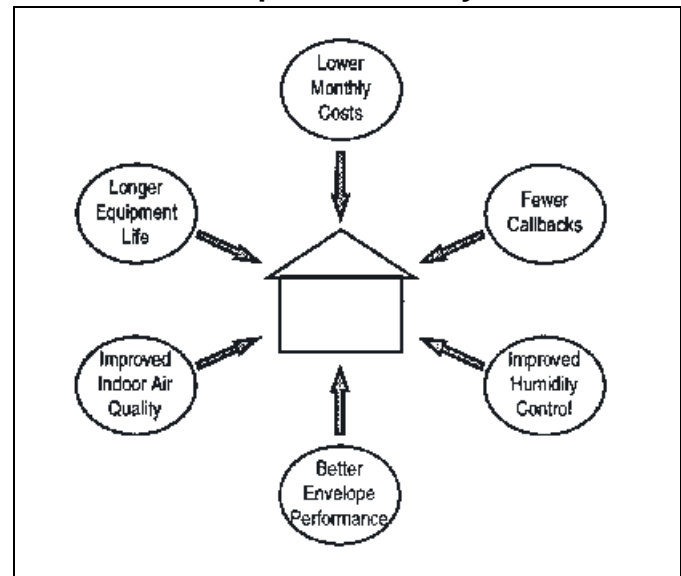
### BENEFITS

Quality can be engineered into an ENERGY STAR labeled home in a number of small ways that add up to a big difference. Building envelope improvements, better equipment, more effective ventilation and humidity control, and windows that block damaging ultraviolet light are all possible components of a better quality home.

#### ☐ Building envelope improvements.

Attention to detail in framing, sealing, and insulating an ENERGY STAR labeled home are quality measures that are almost impossible to improve once walls are closed and finished. By building quality in your construction practices, you can offer your customers greater assurance their homes will last longer and meet performance expectations.

## Benefits of Building for Improved Quality



#### ☐ Energy-efficient equipment often incorporates engineering improvements that increase equipment life and reduce maintenance.

High efficiency boilers and furnaces are available with stainless steel heat exchangers that carry extended or lifetime guarantees. High efficiency air conditioners and heat pumps with two or variable speed fans can operate at lower speeds with less wear and tear. Right-sized equipment will operate much more continuously and avoid damaging short-cycle stops and starts. Compact fluorescent lamps lasting ten times longer than incandescent lamps reduce utility bills while avoiding the annoyance of frequent lamp replacement.

#### ☐ Improved humidity control.

Right-sized cooling equipment operates more continuously than oversized equipment typically provided in new homes. Steadier operation results in better humidity control while using less energy. This is analogous to the driver who accelerates steadily and drives more frequently at highway speeds. These driving habits reduce maintenance costs while increasing gas mileage.

☐ **Reduced interior damage caused by ultraviolet light.**

Ultraviolet light damages floors, fabrics and other furnishings. This causes them to wear out more quickly, necessitating more frequent replacement. High-efficiency windows with Low-E glass and other special films can substantially reduce ultraviolet light penetration, and the resulting damage to home interiors and furnishings. Not only does this save the home owner money in the long run, but the home interior looks better for a longer period of time.

☐ **Active ventilation offers customers a real solution to assured indoor air quality.**

Active ventilation systems offer your customers higher quality products rated for long life and quiet operation. Moreover, your customers can be assured that fresh replacement air is being provided under their control rather than relying on unpredictable air leaks.



## RESOURCES

- ☐ For more information on the ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes Program, call 1-888-STAR-YES; or access the ENERGY STAR labeled homes web page on the Internet at:  
<http://www.energystar.gov/homes>